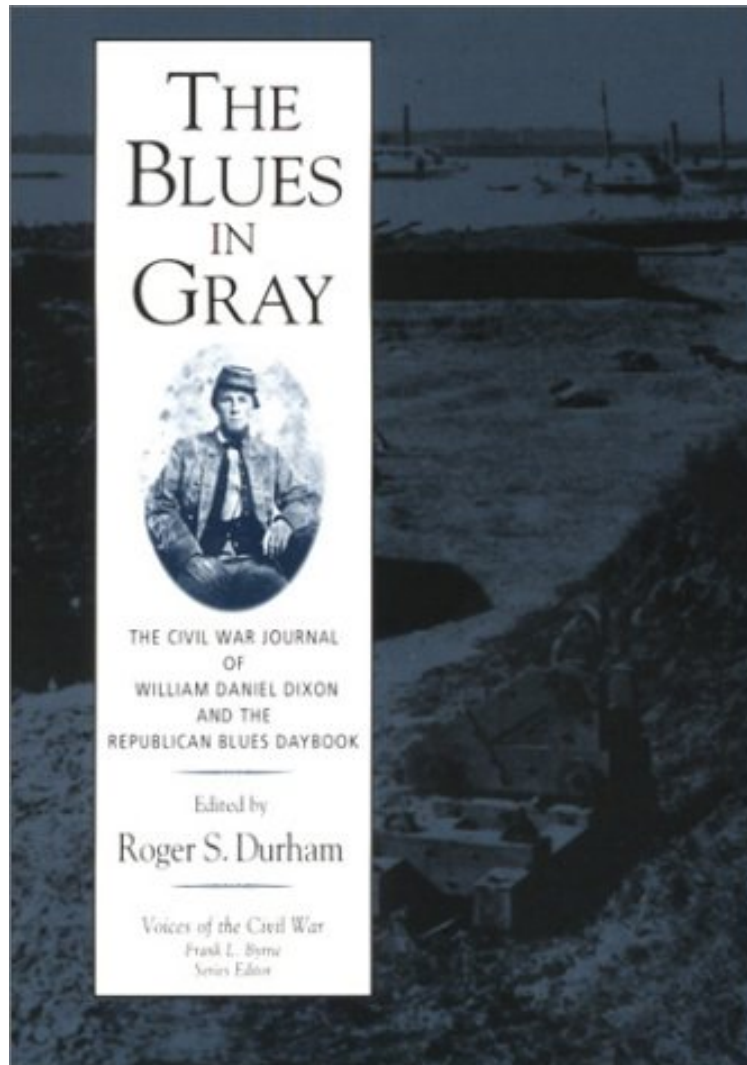


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Blues In Gray: Civil War Journal William Daniel Dixon (Voices of the Civil War Series)

Roger S. Durham

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Roger S. Durham : Blues In Gray: Civil War Journal William Daniel Dixon (Voices of the Civil War Series)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blues In Gray: Civil War Journal William Daniel Dixon (Voices of the Civil War Series):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Great Read for Southerners or Civil War fans. By Wil Bosbyshell This is a wonderful Civil War book told through the eyes of William Daniel Dixon of Savannah, Georgia. It is a fascinating and detailed account of his journey from the coastal battles of the early war to the battle of Atlanta. If

you are from the southeastern part of Georgia you will find it especially interesting to read about the battles and encampments around the Savannah area. Dixon recounts his personal exploits as well as his unit's: the Republican Blues. Compared to the fast travel and communications of today it is great to read about a time of letters, trains, telegraphs, long foot marches, and horse back journeys.² of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Blues in Gray By Caroline Bosbyshell The Blues in Gray is a very readable account of the Republican Blues service in coastal Georgia with exciting battles taking place on the Ogeechee River at Fort McAllister south of Savannah, Georgia. William Daniel Dixon was 23 when he began his private journal which he kept throughout his Confederate Service. He was a native of Savannah and lived his entire life there. The editor, Roger Durham, has done an excellent job making Dixon's voice heard. I am Dixon's great granddaughter and am delighted that this primary material is available to readers and scholars.

Unlike Confederate units formed during the Civil War, the Republican Blues had been an existing militia organization in Savannah, Georgia, for over fifty years -- a professional fighting unit rather than an assemblage of ragtag volunteers. The Blues had served under the U.S. flag before taking up arms against it, and after the war they continued their existence in the National Guard of the reunited nation. The Blues in Gray combines the unit's daybook with the journal of company commander William Dixon to offer a day-by-day account of many facets of the war, from the drudgery of garrison duty to the horror of the battlefield. Roger Durham has interwoven the documents to provide fresh insights from a theater of the war seldom noted by historians. The Republican Blues spent three years on the Georgia coast, where they came under seven naval attacks at Fort McAllister before joining the Army of Tennessee to defend northern Georgia against Sherman. Dixon's journal allows us to follow the course of the war and share his correspondence with family and friends, while the daybook lets us observe the unit's administration. The volume also offers unusual revelations about the final months of the war, including a moving account of the retreat of Hood's army from Nashville, where barefooted soldiers left bloody footprints in the snow. With its vivid glimpses of Civil War life in both camp and combat, The Blues in Gray provides a Confederate soldier's view of the entire conflict -- not just a segment of service -- and a rich new source of primary material. More importantly, it breaks through the stereotype of Johnny Reb to show us the trials and triumphs of professional military men in the South.

About the Author The Editor: Roger S. Durham's articles have appeared in Civil War Times Illustrated and Blue and Gray. He is currently employed by the National Park Service as Supervisory Museum Curator for the Thomas Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey.